



Are Your Life Care Choices in Writing?

Life care planning is a vital task for everyone, young or old, healthy or ill. Two years ago, we witnessed the painful case of Terri Schiavo, a young Florida woman who collapsed and suffered permanent brain damage. Unfortunately, she had not written down her wishes about medical care. Her family disagreed sharply about how she should be treated, leading to a long legal battle. The Schiavo case showed how everyone, not just seniors, needs a Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney, at the very least.

Less than 25 percent of Americans have expressed their wishes in writing about how they want to be cared for at the end of their lives.

As Arizona's chief legal officer, I want everyone to be able to express their life care wishes clearly, easily and legally. My Office recently produced ***Life Care Planning for Everyone***, a short video that I hope will encourage family discussions so well-reasoned choices can be made ***before*** an emergency – choices that will significantly reduce stress on families.

The video and Life Care Planning forms can be easily downloaded from the Attorney General's Web site at ***www.azag.gov***. The Web site also has a list of Satellite Office locations across Arizona where you can pick up the forms. If your group would like a presentation on Life Care Planning, please contact the Attorney General's Community Services Program at ***602.542.2123*** or ***communityservices@azag.gov***.

Attorney General Terry Goddard

Presented as a public service by The Arizona Republic

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As important as it is to make our end-of-life wishes known, most of us have yet to do it.

– Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard

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